

**George Sutherland, Senator.****Political Notes.**

The caucus on Wednesday night, which resulted in the unanimous selection of George Sutherland to succeed Thomas Kearns in the United States Senate, was the culminating scene in a political drama in which acrimony and bitterness were the predominating notes. It marks the complete vanquishment of Mr. Kearns as a political power in Utah.

Although the consummation of the struggle between Mr. Sutherland and the retiring senator was lacking in spectacular interest, it represents two years of an almost continuous political grapple between the rival aspirants, in which Mr. Kearns' chief weapons were contumely and abuse while Mr. Sutherland's challenge for supremacy was based upon recognized attainments and a splendid record in the public service.

There are those who contend that Mr. Sutherland won his victory through an alliance with the church dignitaries, but there is no justification for such an imputation. It is true that Mr. Smoot and Mr. Sutherland were in harmony in the recent political battle, but they were united because each was contending against a common antagonist, and all sinister hints that Mr. Sutherland is in any sense obligated to the church authorities for the recent preferment are merely emanations from the organ of the senior senator and an item in his program of vituperation.

Mr. Sutherland's success is a flattering tribute to his political sagacity and courage, and his personal popularity with the citizens of all sections of the state. From the beginning he has been heavily handicapped. His rival was equipped for the struggle with two daily newspapers, both servile and unscrupulous, and unlimited financial resources. Mr. Sutherland made his dignified bid for the senatorship in the face of these discouraging conditions, without monetary prestige and without a single daily newspaper supporting his candidacy.

The controversy between the present senator and Mr. Sutherland began when they were the joint representatives of Utah in the congress, where Senator Kearns heaped upon the congressman every indignity, both in the way of personal affront and through the medium of the two local daily organs which he controls. Immediately upon his return to Utah, Mr. Sutherland began his war of retaliation, and there are but few people in

the state who are not confessedly gratified over his signal success.

It may be expected that people in other states who are unfamiliar with the peculiar conditions surrounding the contest from which Mr. Sutherland emerged the victor will attribute his success to undue influence of the dominant church, but among unbiased residents of the state the election will be recorded as the result of a dignified and consistent campaign, in which a gifted gentleman respected wherever known triumphed over a tentative boss who attempted to vanquish him with bludgeoning and bulldozing and the gloss of gold.

Mr. Sutherland's election and the consequent retirement of Mr. Kearns was a good thing for the state and the people and will clarify the political atmosphere. It is flattering to him and his friends that he should have been chosen with such unanimity that all other competitors for the place saw the hopelessness of attempting to wrest from him the senatorial toga.

Few instances are recorded in any of the states where a candidate for the United States senate has been given the total legislative vote in a caucus, a fact which makes the recent action of the caucus doubly gratifying to Mr. Sutherland and his friends.

"I would not accept the office of senator with the slightest taint upon its title," said Mr. Richard Kerens of Missouri, well known in local political history, referring to the caucus nomination of Thomas K. Niedringhaus for the senate by methods alleged to be dubious. Mr. Kerens may not have so intended it, but such a statement is extremely humorous to residents of Utah, who remember the distinguished connection he had with the election of Mr. T. Kearns two years ago. This supersensitive display on the part of the gentleman from Missouri looks like an eleventh hour repentance. However, it is a hopeful sign, even if we recall the old familiar voice and remember that the hands are those of Esau.

One feature of the recent senatorial affair which causes the deepest and most widespread gloom was the withdrawal from the race at the last moment of Mr. William Glasmann. William should not have done this. The whole nation is aghast at this unparalleled exhibition of self-abnegation. Never have the people been so disconsolate since the day Mr. Kearns formed that magnificent organization, the American party. The

only balm we can think of for the grieving public is for William to publicly announce that he will consent to have his name used for the vice presidency of the republic four years from now.

Does the same lofty sentiment of patriotism surcharge the breast of our own Thomas Kearns as that which animated his guileless Missouri friend, Mr. Richard Kerens, when the Missourian said he would not accept a United States senatorship with a "taint upon its title."

The Tribune doesn't like the result of the late caucus and desires the church to substitute a name for that of Mr. Sutherland. How would F. J. Cannon do for euphonious nomenclature?

And yet it is true that the editor of the Tribune once had a bishop's recommend, and was proud of it.

**TELEPHONE AGITATION OVER.**

The telephone problem, if there ever was one, appears to have been definitely solved, judging from the lack of interest and meager attendance at the meeting called by the citizens' committee for Thursday night at the Commercial Club. Scarcely anyone save members of the committee was present, and the members themselves seemed to have come to the conclusion that everything had been fairly and satisfactorily adjusted and that there was no need for further action.

The report submitted by the committee merely recited the schedule of rates of the telephone companies, indicating what reductions would be made, but no recommendations were made, and the whole affair was about as productive as a desert land entry. An informal discussion followed the presentation of the report, and while some few complaints were voiced, chiefly by E. E. Rich, no remedies were suggested and no definite action was taken. The fact that the public has demonstrated an entire lack of interest in the agitation has apparently discouraged the committee, which adjourned without making any arrangements for a future meeting.

The general impression prevailed at the meeting that the terms proffered by the telephone company were all that could be desired, and it is practically certain that the meeting of Thursday marks the culmination of the work of the citizens' committee.

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